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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Stephane H. Maes

Examiner: Worjloh Jalatee

Serial No: 10/038,987

Group Art Unit: 3621

Filed: December 31, 2001

Docket: YOR922010471US1
(8728-534)

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONFIRMING ELECTRONIC
TRANSACTIONS**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated June 14, 2004, Applicants provisionally elects the claims of Group I (claims 1-27) with traverse.

As set forth in MPEP § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made **without serious burden**, the examiner **must** examine it on the merits, even though the application contains claims to independent and distinct inventions.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage paid in an envelope addressed to : Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box. 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 14, 2004.

Dated: July 14, 2004


Frank V. DeRosa

While the inventions of Groups I and II may be distinct for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that simultaneous examination of Groups I and II will not present a serious burden. Indeed, although the inventions of Groups I and II may be classified in class 705, subclass 75 and class 705, subclass 50, respectively, Examiner cannot reasonably contend that simultaneous examination in only two subclasses would be a burden, much less a serious burden. Furthermore, although the inventions of groups I and II may be distinct, they are related to the extent that possible patent references related to the claimed inventions would undoubtedly be commonly included in the both the above subclasses.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that there would be no serious burden on Examiner to simultaneously examination claims of Groups I and II. Under such circumstances, it is respectfully requested that Examiner maintain all claims in the same application.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank V. DeRosa

Reg. No. 43,584

Attorney for Applicant

F. CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLC
130 Woodbury Road
Woodbury, New York 11797
Tel: (516) 692-8888
Fax: (516) 692-8889